

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Atty. Docket

MAURICE G. GAUCHET

FR 010012

Serial No.

Group Art Unit

Filed: CONCURRENTLY

Ex.

Title: METHOD OF MANUFACTURING AN ULTRASOUND TRANSDUCER AND
ULTRASOUND TRANSDUCER OBTAINED BY MEANS OF THE METHOD

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

2. (amended) A method of manufacturing as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that at least one slit extends radially partly along a radius of the disc.

3. (amended) A method of manufacturing as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that at least one slit (70) extends radially as far as the center (C) of the disc (20).

4. (amended) A method of manufacturing as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that at least two slits (70) extend radially as far as the center (C) of the disc (20) in such a manner that the disc is separated into at least two distinct portions.

5. (amended) A method of manufacturing as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the facing, oppositely situated free edges (74, 76) have a radial orientation in such a manner that the corresponding slit (70) forms a V whose apex is oriented towards the center (C) of the disc (20).

6. (amended) A method of manufacturing as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the oppositely situated free edges (74, 76) are curved and convex, their convexity being opposed.

7. (amended) A method of manufacturing as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the disc (20) comprises a series of slits (70) which are angularly distributed in a regular fashion so as to define substantially identical angular sectors (78).

8. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that adhesive is introduced into the slit (70) in such a manner

that, after the step of forming, the oppositely situated free edges (74, 76) are glued to one another.

9. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the adhesive is an electrically insulating adhesive.

10. (amended) A method of manufacturing as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that during the step of forming the composite piezoelectric material is heated so as to soften it, after which it is cooled so as to fix its dimensions.

11. (amended) An ultrasound transducer (60) in the form of a hollow spherical cap (26), manufactured in conformity with claim 1, characterized in that it comprises at least one slit (70) having a radial orientation.

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments to the claims were made solely to avoid filing the claims in the multiple dependent form so as to avoid the additional filing fee.

The claims were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights he may have under the Doctrine of Equivalents. Applicant furthermore

reserves his right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or continuing applications.

~~Respectfully submitted,~~

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APPENDIX

2. (amended) A method of manufacturing as claimed in ~~the preceding claim~~claim 1, characterized in that at least one slit extends radially partly along a radius of the disc.

3. (amended) A method of manufacturing as claimed in ~~one of the claims 1 or 2~~claim 1, characterized in that at least one slit (70) extends radially as far as the center (C) of the disc (20).

4. (amended) A method of manufacturing as claimed in ~~the preceding claim~~claim 1, characterized in that at least two slits (70) extend radially as far as the center (C) of the disc (20) in such a manner that the disc is separated into at least two distinct portions.

5. (amended) A method of manufacturing as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterized in that the facing, oppositely situated free edges (74, 76) have a radial orientation in such a manner that the corresponding slit (70) forms a V whose apex is oriented towards the center (C) of the disc (20).

6. (amended) A method of manufacturing as claimed in the preceding claim claim 1, characterized in that the oppositely situated free edges (74, 76) are curved and convex, their convexity being opposed.

7. (amended) A method of manufacturing as claimed in any one of the preceding claims claim 1, characterized in that the disc (20) comprises a series of slits (70) which are angularly distributed in a regular fashion so as to define substantially identical angular sectors (78).

8. (amended) A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims claim 1, characterized in that adhesive is introduced into the slit (70) in such a manner that, after the step of forming, the oppositely situated free edges (74, 76) are glued to one another.

9. (amended) A method as claimed in the preceding claim claim 1, characterized in that the adhesive is an electrically insulating adhesive.

10. (amended) A method of manufacturing as claimed in any one of the preceding claims claim 1, characterized in that during the step

of forming the composite piezoelectric material is heated so as to soften it, after which it is cooled so as to fix its dimensions.

11. (amended) An ultrasound transducer (60) in the form of a hollow spherical cap (26), manufactured in conformity with any one of the preceding claims claim 1, characterized in that it comprises at least one slit (70) having a radial orientation.